

**CITY OF MESA**  
**HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)**  
**Youth Diversity Education Team Sub-Committee (YDET)**  
October 21, 2014 Minutes

The Youth Diversity Education Team of Mesa met on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014,  
at 5:00pm at the Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main St., Ste. 170.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Frias-Long, Chair  
Denise Heap  
Tony Liuzzo  
Cliff Moon  
Talmage Pearce

MEMBERS ABSENT

Nadia Taylor

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Alicoate  
Emily Blankenship  
Ruth Giese

GUESTS

1. Call to Order.

Ms. Frias-Long called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

2. Items from citizens present.

There were no citizens who requested to speak to YDET.

3. Approval of minutes from the September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 YDET meeting.

A copy of the September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting minutes were provided at the end of the meeting. The team members agreed to approve at the next meeting.

4. Hear, discuss and take action on expanding youth involvement with the Community Cinema Series.

Ms. Blankenship, Diversity Office staff member, provided an update on the 2014-2015 Community Cinema series events. Ms. Blankenship reminded YDET members that they agreed to take the lead for one of the films by planning the panelists, engagement activity and inviting interested groups. The designated film would be shown in April 2015 titled 'The Homestretch', which focuses on the struggles of homeless youth.

Ms. Blankenship provided the following planning suggestions: develop an engagement strategy that ties the issues highlighted in the film back to Mesa ex: PBS would like to tie in with American Graduate Campaign; seek out event partners such as United Way's College Bound; secure three partners or panelists by matching speakers to an aspect of the engagement strategy; secure a facilitator; and conduct outreach (schools, community groups, etc.) to get people to the screening. Once the panelists are chosen, a short bio will need to be obtained from each one. A list of discussion questions will also need to be compiled. Flyer template and postcards will be provided to the board members to distribute for promotion. Ms. Blankenship reminded YDET members to think of any ideas for post-film engagement activities. They will also be responsible to take notes at the event on action orientations, significant quotes, or discussion topics. YDET members determined that Ms. Heap will be facilitating the event, Ms. Frias-Long will be taking pictures and Mr. Moon will be taking notes. Ms. Heap formally thanked Ms. Blankenship on behalf of the board for her work and accomplishments with the Cinema Series the past three years.

5. Hear, discuss, and take action on the Diversity Youth Survey in order to explore ways to connect with youth and educate them on diversity related issues.

Ms. Giese provided the members a copy of initial results from the Diversity Youth Survey questioning youth on how they would like to be contacted with diversity related information or how they would like to get such information. Survey results had been received from eighteen youth. Dr. Liuzzo recommended waiting to receive approximately 40-50 surveys before evaluating the results generally. Mr. Moon commented that he

*Supporting data is available for public review in the Diversity & Neighborhood Outreach Office,  
20 E. Main St., Suite 250, Mesa, Arizona 85201 (480) 644-5034*

liked the data they were seeing thus far. Ms. Heap agreed by stating that even though limited, the data is providing valuable information. Dr. Liuzzo suggested conducting focus groups to gauge more responses after they conclude the surveys. Ms. Frias-Long agreed that she is having success with youth focus groups for her employment.

6. Hear an update, discuss and take action on MLK Committee's Youth Leadership Development Conference.

Mr. Moon reminded the board members that Martin Luther King Jr. Committee, along with interest from the City of Tempe Diversity Office, is planning a Youth Leadership Development Conference: Empowering Youth to "Learn, Lead, and Constructively Engage in their Communities" in the spring. Mr. Moon stated that he did not have an update to report at this time, but the team agreed to keep item on the agenda for future updates. Ms. Heap provided Mr. Moon several names for potential speakers.

7. Discuss future agenda items, meeting dates, announcements, other housekeeping.

- Next YDET meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 5pm.

YDET members agreed to keep the same agenda items for discussion.

8. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 5:36pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,  
Diversity Program Administrator